

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figure 2 to show the teeth extending diagonally from the base.

Attachment: Replacement sheet

REMARKS

I. Overview

Claims 1 – 40 are pending in the application. Claim 36 has been withdrawn. After entry of this amendment, claims 1 – 36 will be pending in the application. Examiner has indicated that claims 8, 12 – 16 and 37 – 40 contain allowable subject matter. The following are the outstanding issues raised in the Office Action:

- 1) The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a).
- 2) Claims 1 – 7, 9 – 11, 17, 19 – 29 and 33 – 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,448,497 (filed Aug. 21, 2000, issued Sep. 10, 2002) to McCracken et al. (hereinafter “McCracken”).
- 3) Claims 18, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCracken.
- 4) Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCracken in view of U.K. Patent Application No. GB 2,222,913 (filed Sep. 18, 1989) by Kitagawa Industries Co. Ltd. (hereinafter “Kitagawa”).
- 5) Claims 8, 12 – 16 and 37 – 40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants sincerely thank Examiner for indicating claims 8, 12 – 16 and 37 – 40 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants traverse the current rejections; however, to facilitate the prompt allowance of the pending application, Applicants make the following amendments.

II. Amendments to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for not showing the “plurality of teeth extend diagonally outward from said first channel base” as recited in claim 12. Office Action, page 2. In response to this objection, Applicants have amended the drawings as shown in Replacement Sheet 2/5. The only amendment to Fig. 2 is to show the teeth extending diagonally as recited in claim 12 and paragraph [0020] of the specification. Thus,

the amendment to the drawings introduces no new matter. *See* M.P.E.P. 2163.06 (providing that “information contained in any one of the specification, claims or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without introducing new matter.”).

III. The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 – 7, 9 – 11, 17, 19 – 29 and 33 – 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McCracken et al. The rejected claims are considered below.

A. Independent Claims 1, 19, 24 and 33

Further to Examiner’s indication that claims 37 – 40 contain allowable subject matter, claims 1, 19, 24 and 33 have been amended to recite the limitation “at least one of said plurality of teeth is a peg” as recited in claims 37 – 40. Accordingly, claims 37 – 40 have been cancelled. Because claims 1, 19, 24 and 33 now recite allowed limitations, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner withdraw the rejections, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), of claims 1, 19, 24 and 33.

B. Dependent Claims 2 – 7, 9 – 11, 17, 20 – 23, 25 – 29, 34 and 35

Claims 2 – 7, 9 – 11, and 17 depend from claim 1. Claims 20 – 23 depend from claim 19 and claims 25 – 29 depend from claim 24. Claims 34 and 35 depend from claim 33. Amended independent claims 1, 19, 24 and 33 now recite limitations Examiner has indicated contain patentable subject matter. *See* Office Action, page 12. Claims 2 – 7, 9 – 11, 17, 20 – 23, 25 – 29, 34 and 35 inherit the newly recited limitations from claims 1, 19, 24, and 33. For at least this reason, claims 2 – 7, 9 – 11, 17, 20 – 23, 25 – 29, 34 and 35 are patentable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner withdraw the rejections, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), of claims 2 – 7, 9 – 11, 17, 20 – 23, 25 – 29, 34 and 35.

IV. The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 18, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCracken. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCracken in view of Kitagawa. Claim 18 depends from claim 1. Claims 30 and 32 depend from claim 24. Claims 1 and 24 now have limitations that Examiner has indicated contain

allowable subject matter over the applied art. *See* Office Action, page 12. Claims 18, 30 and 31 inherit these limitations from their respective base claims. Thus, claims 18, 30, 31 and 32 are patentable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner withdraw the rejections, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), of claims 18, 30, 31 and 32.

V. Objections to claims 8, 12 – 16 and 37 – 40

Claims 8, 12 – 16 and 37 – 40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 8 and 12 – 16 depend from claim 1. As discussed above, amended claim 1 recites subject matter Examiner has indicated is patentable. Claims 8 and 12 – 16 depend from claim 1. Therefore, the objections to claims 8 and 12 – 16 are now moot. Claims 37 – 40 are cancelled. Thus, the objections to claims 37 – 40 are now moot.

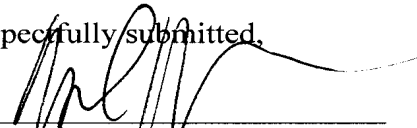
VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 200312987-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 27, 2007

<p>I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4).</p> <p>Dated: August 27, 2007</p> <p>By: <u>Lorraine Dandoff</u> Lorraine Dandoff</p>
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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments